TOMB OF DRACULA
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THE TOMB OF DRACULA™

Hidden in the *shadows* where legend and reality merge, there are *tales* of a being who has lived *more than five hundred years.* They say he is a creature born not on earth, but in the deepest bowels of *Hell* itself, they say he thrives upon the *blood* of innocents, that he is the king of darkness...the prince of evil and that even the *bravest* man quakes in fear at the merest mention of his name...

Stan Lee PRESENTS: **TOMB OF DRACULA!**™

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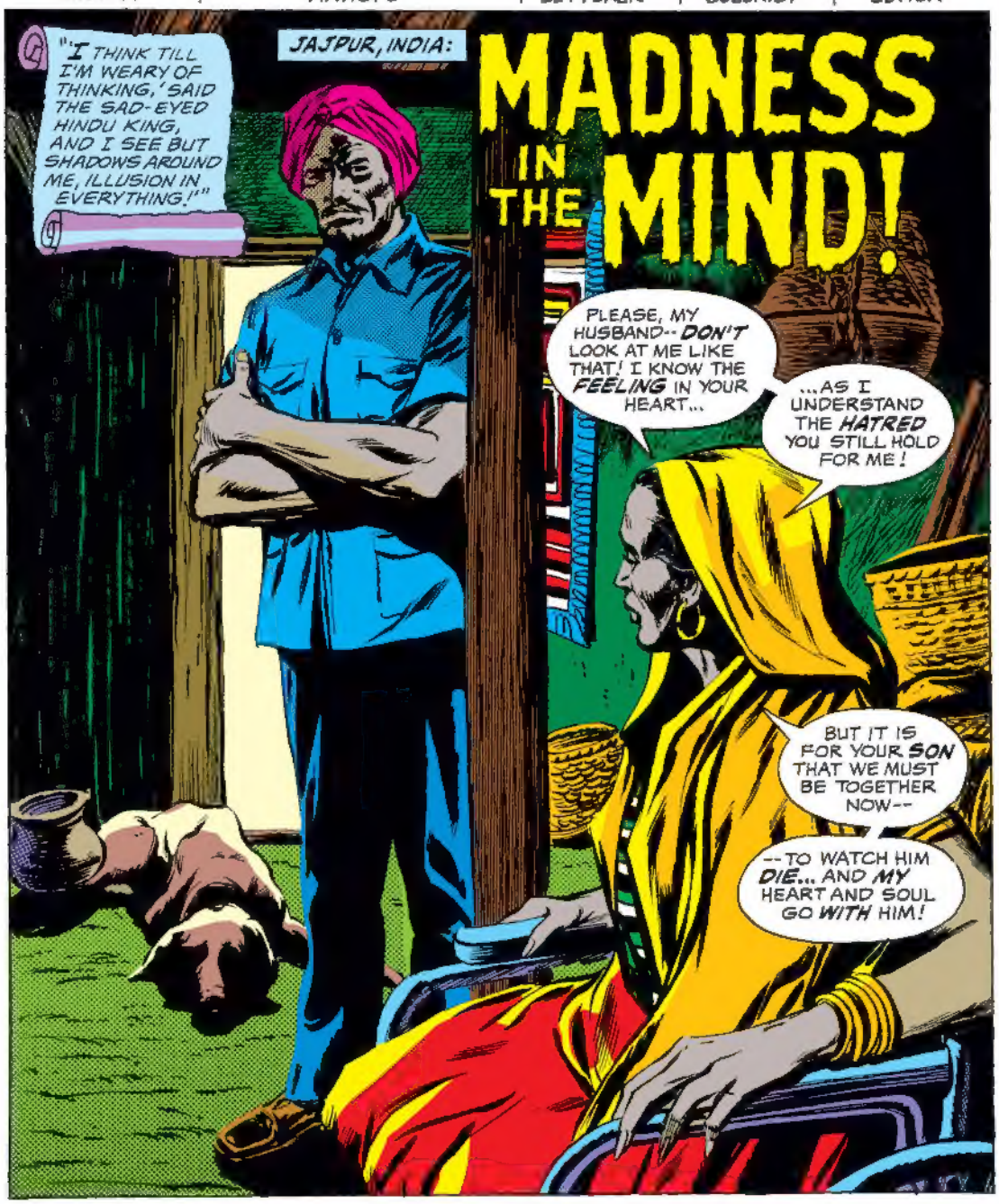


YOU STAND BEFORE SHE-WHO-IS-YOUR-WIFE, TAJ NITALL, AND YOU SEE THE WEARINESS IN HER HEART-- THE SADNESS IN HER SOUL--
AND YOU MOURN THE FIVE YEARS YOU WERE APART FROM HER--
SHE IS A GOOD WOMAN! WHY COULD YOU NOT SEE THAT BEFORE YOU ABANDONED HER?
TAJ, MY HUSBAND-- FOR ALL THESE YEARS I HAVE LOVED YOU-- PROBABLY MORE THAN I HAD EVER LOVED YOU BEFORE!
AND WHAT I HAD SAID TO YOU THAT DAY-- PLEASE, TAJ-- PLEASE FORGET IT ALL!
I WAS CRAZED WITH HORROR FOR MY SON'S LIFE!
WE SUFFERED, THE BOTH OF US! MORE THAN ANY NEED SUFFER! MAYBE IT WILL END NOW!
DO YOU BELIEVE, MY HUSBAND, THAT THERE IS HOPE FOR US?
OR IS HOPE BEYOND US NOW?
YOU FEEL A WEIGHT LIFT FROM YOU NOW--A WEIGHT THAT HAD BURDENED YOU FOR FIVE YEARS--FOR THE WORDS OF LOVE THAT ARE IN YOUR HEART ARE SPOKEN WITH THE TENDER TOUCH OF LIPS!
AND YOU PROMISE YOURSELF THAT THIS LOVE SHALL NOT BE LEFT LAYING IN THE PAST!
TAJ--
PLEASE-- NO MORE, MY LOVE!
OUR SON-- OUR SON!
YOU MAY HAVE FORGOTTEN HOW HE WAS-- HOW HE STILL IS!
BUT YOU HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN, TAJ NITALL! HOW CAN YOU WHEN THE THOUGHT OF YOUR SON HAS KEPT YOU AWAKE FOR ENDLESS NIGHTS?
THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE! NO CHANGE AT ALL!
YOU ARE UNCERTAIN OF THE MEANING IN YOUR WIFE'S WORDS AS YOU STARE THROUGH THE BAMBOO CURTAIN--BUT YOU ARE NOT UNSURE OF WHAT YOU SEE, AND THAT MAKES YOU SICK!

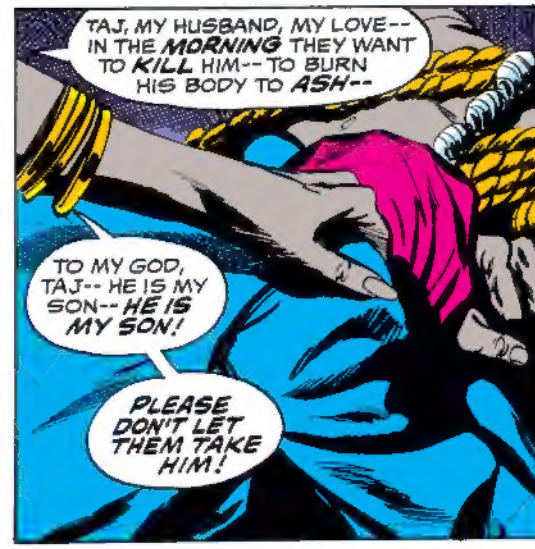
YOUR SON LAYS THERE, **BOUND** BY CLOVES OF GARLIC! CANISTERS OF **BLOOD** PUMP LIFE THROUGH HIS HALF-DEAD VEINS WHILE **CRUCIFIXES** OF A RELIGION YOU DO NOT **BELIEVE** IN HANG ON MUD-CAKED WALLS, PROTECTING AN OUTSIDE WORLD FROM THE HELLISH **WRATH** THAT IS IN YOUR CHILD!

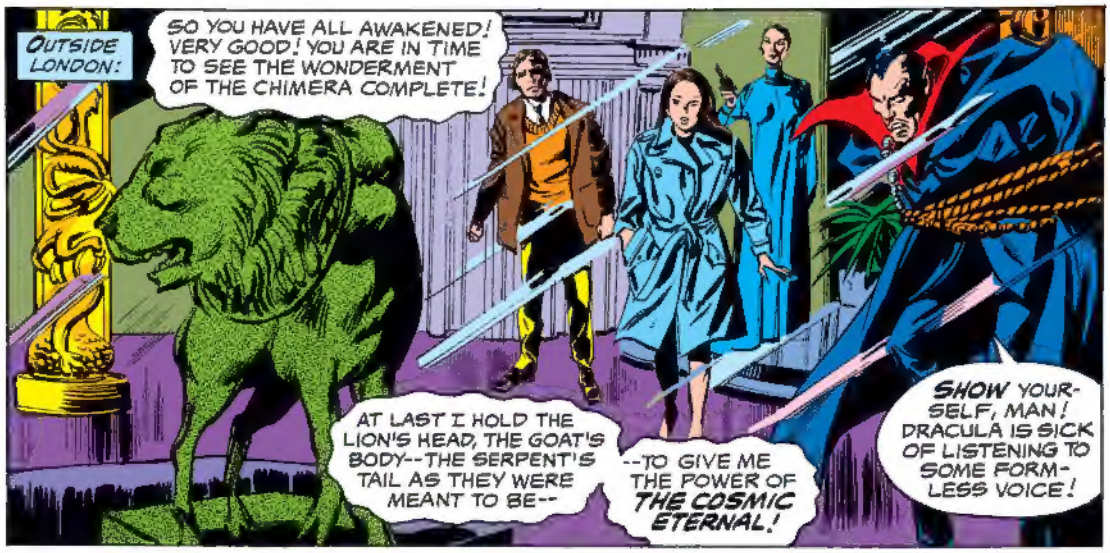
HE MOANS, THIS BOY OF YOURS. HIS VOICE IS **HEAVY,** GUTTERAL, AND LADEN WITH VENOMOUS **BILE,** AND YOU BACK AWAY FROM THE YOUTH YOU HELPED GIVE **BIRTH** TO!

NAUSEA WELLS WITHIN YOUR THROAT, AND YOU FIGHT TO KEEP IT **DOWN,** FOR THIS SON OF YOURS IS A **VAMPIRE--**

--AND YOU KNOW WHAT MUST BE **DONE** TO HIM WHEN **MORNING** COMES!

YOU CAN **SMELL** HIS YELLOWED DECOMPOSING **FLESH,** AND YOU **ARE** SICK NOW! YOU **TURN** TO RELIEVE YOURSELF BEFORE FACING THE CHILD AGAIN!




OUTSIDE LONDON:
SO YOU HAVE ALL AWAKENED! VERY GOOD! YOU ARE IN TIME TO SEE THE WONDERMENT OF THE CHIMERA COMPLETE!
AT LAST I HOLD THE LION'S HEAD, THE GOAT'S BODY--THE SERPENT'S TAIL AS THEY WERE MEANT TO BE--
--TO GIVE ME THE POWER OF THE COSMIC ETERNAL!
SHOW YOURSELF, MAN! DRACULA IS SICK OF LISTENING TO SOME FORMLESS VOICE!

I DEMAND FREEDOM IMMEDIATELY!
YOU DEMAND DIRT, VAMPIRE! YOU CAN HAVE NO DEMANDS--YOU CAN HAVE NO FREEDOM--NOT HERE IN MY LAIR! IS THAT UNDERSTOOD, PRINCE OF MADNESS?

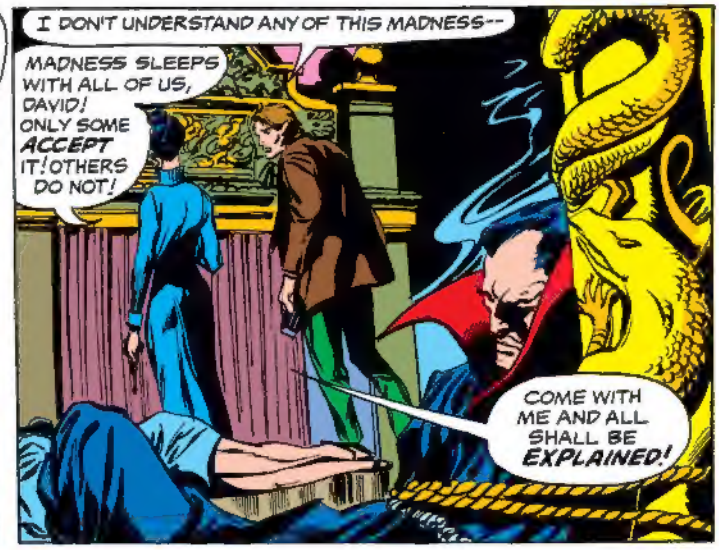
YOU SEEK TO RILE ME, MAN--BUT IT SHALL DO YOU LITTLE GOOD! ONCE I AM FREE OF THESE BONDS--

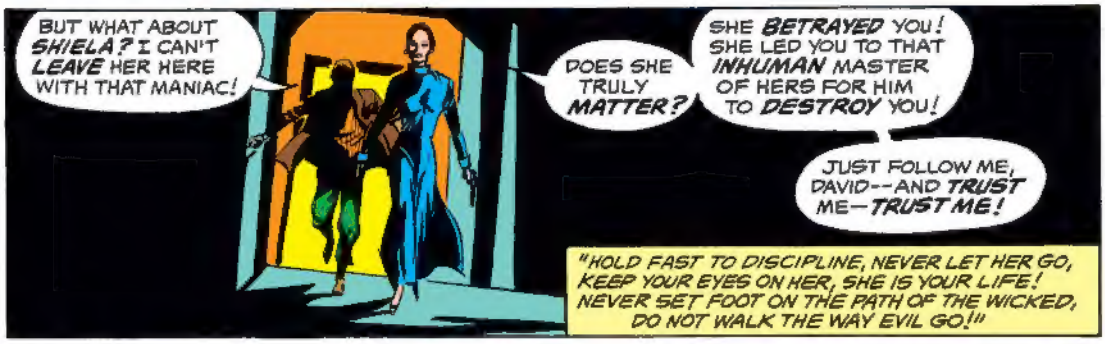
THEN YOU WON'T BREAK FREE, VAMPIRE!
ACCEPT YOUR FATE--OR THE NEXT TIME THIS CROSS WILL BURN MORE THAN YOUR FACE!
AGGGHH!!
DOG OF A WOMAN!
ENOUGH, MAE LI--THE VAMPIRE IS SECURE! HE WILL NOT ESCAPE UNLESS WE WISH HIM TO!
AND EVEN THEN, THE POWER OF THE CHIMERA SHALL KEEP HIM OURS!

DAVID ESHCOL-- YOU SEEK THE CHIMERA TO AVENGE YOUR FATHER'S DEATH! I WAS HIS MURDERER, YET YOU SHALL NEVER CLAIM THAT VENGEANCE!
SHIELA WHITTIER --YOU HOPE TO TOUCH THE CHIMERA FOR JUST A MOMENT! WHAT UNSPOKEN DESIRES POSSESS YOU?
THE VAMPIRE AND MYSELF SEEK THIS STATUE FOR REASONS FAR MORE BASE! WE DEMAND POWER! FORGED MORE THAN THIRTY THOUSAND YEARS AGO ON THE ISLAND ATLANTIS BY THE WIZARD C'THUNDA, THE CHIMERA HAS THE POWERS OF THE GODS THEMSELVES BREATHED INTO IT!
A DEMONSTRATION, PERHAPS? OBSERVE THEN A MOST INSIGNIFICANT DISPLAY OF POWER--
--AS IT CAN BE USED TO TAMPER WITH HUMAN EMOTIONS!
I HATE YOU, DAVID! I HATE YOU!
I WANT YOU DEAD!
DO YOU UNDERSTAND THAT, DAVID? I WANT YOU DEAD!
FOR GOD'S SAKE, SHIELA -- STOP!
CAN'T YOU SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING TO YOURSELF?
LET GO OF ME! I WANT TO KILL YOU!
DAMN YOU! I WANT TO KILL YOU!
THAT WON'T DO YOU ANY GOOD, GIRL!
WHO--?
FATHER?!?
BUT YOU'RE DEAD! I SAW THEM KILL YOU!
IF I WERE DEAD, MY SON, COULD I STAND HERE? COULD I PROTECT YOU FROM THIS MADDENED GIRL?
NO, MY SON! I AM ALIVE! AS ALIVE AS ANY CAN BE!

ALIVE? BUT--
DID I TEACH YOU TO QUESTION ME, DAVID?
NO! I TAUGHT YOU THE WAYS OF GOD-- THE WAYS OF YOUR ANCESTORS!
AND WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH MY TEACHINGS, MY SON?
YOU BELIEVED THEM!
YOU FOOL-- YOU IDIOT! YOU BELIEVED THAT PACK OF LIES I SPREAD!
THERE IS NO GOD, YOU YOUNG FOOL! THERE IS NO SUPREME BEING! I LIED! LIED!
HA HA HA
STOP IT! YOU'RE NOT MY FATHER! YOU CAN'T BE HIM!
TELL ME WHO YOU ARE OR I'LL--
WHAT CAN YOU HOPE TO DO TO SOMEONE YOU CAN NOT EVEN GRASP, IDIOT?
HA HA HA HA HA
BUT WATCH AS I TOUCH YOU-- AS I WRENCH AWAY THE LAST FRAGMENTS OF YOUR FAITH!
NO!
AS EASILY AS I FED YOU THOSE LIES FOR YOUR WHOLE LIFE!
TRY STOPPING ME, FOOL! TRY PREVENTING ME FROM DESTROYING YOUR FAITH WITH THE FLAME FROM DEEPEST HELL!
NO!
NO!

PLEASE, LORD-- DON'T LET THIS BE TRUE! PLEASE DON'T LET THIS BE TRUE!
IT NEEDN'T BE, DAVID! NOT IF YOU FOLLOW ME!


I DON'T UNDERSTAND ANY OF THIS MADNESS--
MADNESS SLEEPS WITH ALL OF US, DAVID! ONLY SOME ACCEPT IT! OTHERS DO NOT!
COME WITH ME AND ALL SHALL BE EXPLAINED!


BUT WHAT ABOUT SHIELA? I CAN'T LEAVE HER HERE WITH THAT MANIAC!
DOES SHE TRULY MATTER?
SHE BETRAYED YOU! SHE LED YOU TO THAT INHUMAN MASTER OF HERS FOR HIM TO DESTROY YOU!
JUST FOLLOW ME, DAVID--AND TRUST ME—TRUST ME!
"HOLD FAST TO DISCIPLINE, NEVER LET HER GO, KEEP YOUR EYES ON HER, SHE IS YOUR LIFE! NEVER SET FOOT ON THE PATH OF THE WICKED, DO NOT WALK THE WAY EVIL GO!"

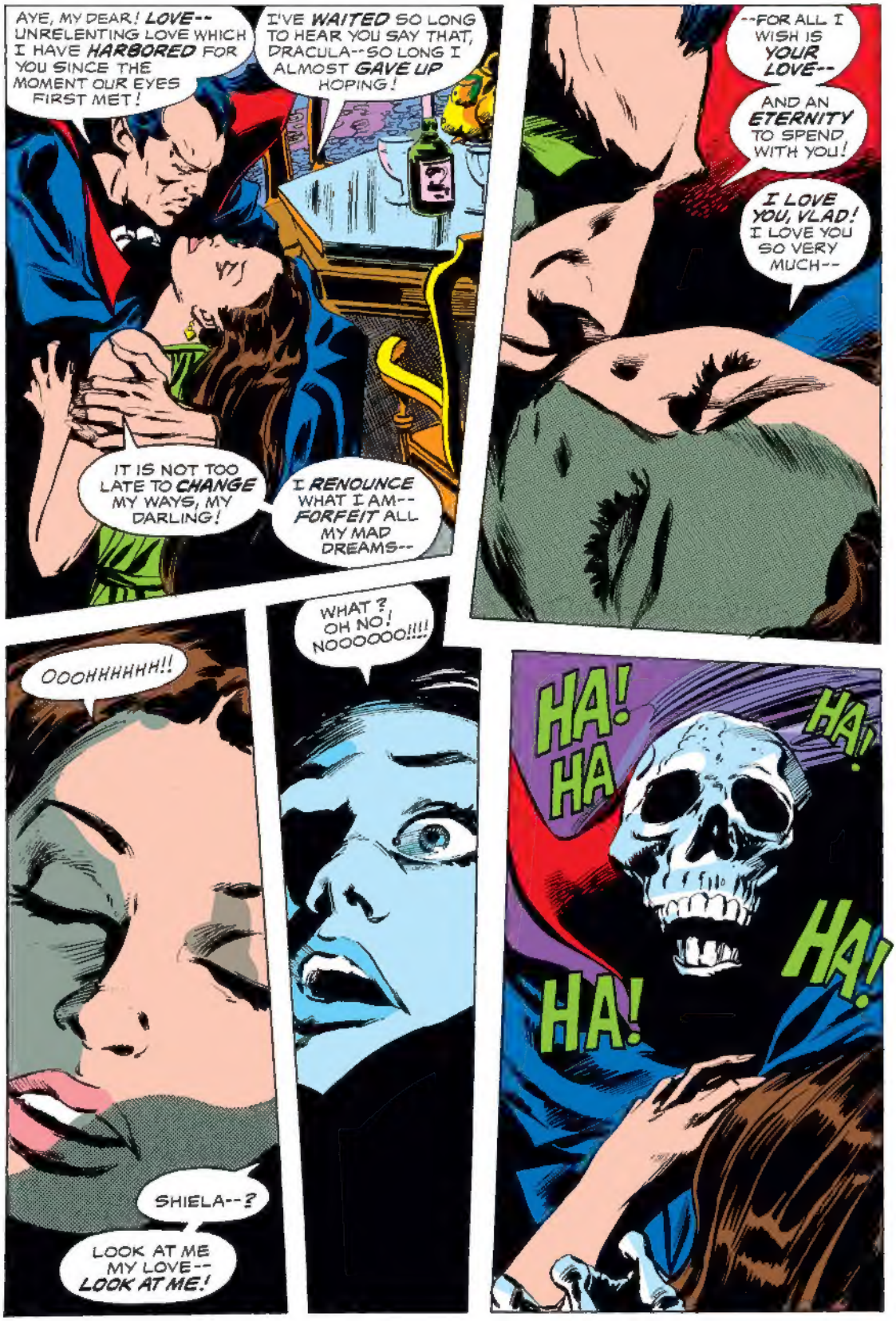
SAGE ADVICE-- IF ONLY IT WERE NEEDED!
THIS IS AS FAR AS YOU GO, DAVID!
WHAT?

THE NEXT STEP--
NOOOOOOOOO

HA HA HA HA
--WILL BE YOUR FINAL ONE!

HUNH? WHERE AM I--?
WHAT HAPPENED TO ME? WHAT?!?

HOW DID I GET INTO THESE CLOTHI--
DAVID ESHCOL! I AM THE GOD OF THY FATHER, THE GOD OF ABRAHAM, THE GOD OF ISAAC, AND THE GOD OF JACOB!
I HAVE SURELY SEEN THE AFFLICTION OF THY MIND, AND I HAVE SUMMONED THEE HERE TO HEAR THE WORDS OF GOD!
NO! THIS CAN'T BE-- IT MUSN'T BE!
I AM NOT YOUR GOD, DAVID ESHCOL! THERE IS NO GOD! THERE IS NOTHING! NOTHING!
I AM SATAN, DAVID ESHCOL--SATAN CARESSING YOU IN THE FLAMING HANDS OF HELL ITSELF!
HA! HA! HA! HA!
NOOOOOO!!!
NOOOO!!!
DAVID! THERE'S NO ONE HERE! STOP CRYING! STOP IT!
WHAT ?!? BUT IT WAS SO REAL! SO BLASTED REAL!
YOU SEEK TO CODDLE CHILDREN, MY DEAR?
IS NOT A MAN OF MY STATURE MORE YOUR LIKING?
VLAD?!? BUT I THOUGHT--?
LOVE--?
TUSH TUSH! YOU ARE TOO DELICATE A CREATURE TO WASTE TIME WITH MERE THINKING, MY DARLING!
COME WITH ME AND LET THE GRACE AND HOSPITALITY OF DRACULA SERVE YOU!
AND SHOWER YOU WITH A BANQUET MOST LAVISH--A LOVE MOST UNENDING!


AYE, MY DEAR! LOVE-- UNRELENTING LOVE WHICH I HAVE HARBORED FOR YOU SINCE THE MOMENT OUR EYES FIRST MET!
I'VE WAITED SO LONG TO HEAR YOU SAY THAT, DRACULA--SO LONG I ALMOST GAVE UP HOPING!
IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO CHANGE MY WAYS, MY DARLING!
I RENOUNCE WHAT I AM-- FORFEIT ALL MY MAD DREAMS--
--FOR ALL I WISH IS YOUR LOVE--
AND AN ETERNITY TO SPEND WITH YOU!
I LOVE YOU, VLAD! I LOVE YOU SO VERY MUCH--
OOOHHHHHH!!
WHAT? OH NO! NOOOOOO!!!!
SHIELA--?
LOOK AT ME MY LOVE-- LOOK AT ME!
HA! HA
HA!
HA!
HA!

OOOHHHHHHHH!
SHIELA!
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH HER, MADMAN?
WE HAVE DONE NOTHING VAMPIRE--
IT IS YOU THAT OUR AIMS ARE DIRECTED!
YOU?
CORRECT, MY OLD FOE! I'VE TAKEN SPECIAL PAINS TO FIND YOU--TO TRAP YOU--AND NOW, TO KILL YOU!
QUINCY HARKER!
AND I SWEAR, DRACULA--THAT THIS TIME YOU SHALL NOT ESCAPE MY COMRADES AND I!
COMRADES?
TURN AND OBSERVE YOUR SLAYERS, DRACULA!
BLADE, WHOSE WOODEN KNIVES WILL RIP THAT INHUMAN HEART FROM YOU!
TAJ NITAL--FROM THE INDIAN COUNTRYSIDE--
FRANK DRAKE--YOUR DESCENDANT--
--AND RACHEL VAN HELSING--WHO WANTS TO SLAY YOU FOR A FINAL EVERLASTING! TIME!
YOU FORGET ME! HARKER! AM I NOT A THREAT AS WELL?

LILITH? MY DAUGHTER?!?
AND YOUR MURDERER, DEAR, DEAR FATHER!
YOU ARE MY ONLY OBSTACLE IN THE WAY OF MY BECOMING QUEEN OF VAMPIRES!
AND I MEAN TO DO AWAY WITH YOU NOW!
SORRY, BABE--BUT IF YOUR OLD MAN'S GOTTA GO, IT'LL BE BLADE'S WOODEN KNIFE--
--THAT TAKES HIM TO THE HAPPY FANGING GROUNDS!
NEVER, FOOL! YOU SHALL NOT BE PERMITTED TOUCH ME AGAIN WITH THOSE ACCURSED KNIVES OF YOURS!
I SHALL NEVER DIE AGAIN! NEVER!
THAT'S OKAY WITH US, DRACULA--AS LONG AS ONE OF US GETS YOU!
WHAT?!? THE VAN HELSING ARROW?
YOU'VE LAUGHED AT MY CHOICE OF WEAPONS FOR THE LAST TIME, DRACULA!
THUNK
LET ME HAVE MY CHANCE, RACHEL--I HAVE MY OWN GRIPES WITH MY ANCESTOR HERE!
NO! TOO MANY OF YOU--COMING FROM TOO MANY SIDES!
SORRY, ANCESTOR--BUT YOU'VE JUST BLOWN IT FOR THE LAST TIME!
YOU'RE DEAD, YOU CURSED MADMAN--DEAD!

THERE'S NO ESCAPE, DRACULA! YOU'RE DOOMED! DOOMED!
BLADE! CUT OFF HIS HEAD! WE'VE GOT TO BURN HIM IMMEDIATELY!
NEVER! YOU'LL NOT DESTROY ME AGAIN--NOTHING WILL EVER DESTROY ME AS LONG AS I AM DRACULA!
SORRY TO DISILLUSION YOU, ANCESTOR-MINE -- BUT YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BE DRACULA MUCH LONGER!
FACT IS, YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BE MUCH OF ANYTHING EXCEPT KINDLING!
TAJ-- DO WHAT YOU MUST!
I HAVE WAITED LONG FOR THIS MOMENT, VAMPIRE-- SO VERY LONG!
YOU TALK? BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! YOU'RE MUTE-- TOTALLY MUTE!
HARKER CANNOT WALK, YET NOW HE DOES! DRAKE IS NO LONGER IN ENGLAND, AND THIS INDIAN SPEAKS WHEN THAT IS PLAINLY IMPOSSIBLE!
SOMEONE IS PLAYING ME FOR A FOOL--BUT NO MORE!
--AND I SEEK IT NOW!
OUT OF MY WAY, YOU DAMNABLE ILLUSIONS--I SEEK THE BOTTOM OF THIS SHAM--

SORRY, VAMPIRE-- BUT THE ANSWER SHALL NOT BE YOURS --NOT AS LONG AS I HOLD THIS!
--THE CHIMERA--
--THE POWER ETERNAL!

AND THAT, MY LONG-TIME FOE-- SHALL NEVER BE YOURS!
YOU ARE MAD TO SHOW ME THIS, HARKER-- I'LL SOON POSSESS IT-- BY HELL IT WILL BE MINE--
--AND NEITHER YOU NOR YOUR MINDLESS LACKIES SHALL KEEP IT FROM ME!

YOU HEAR THAT, HARKER? YOU HEAR THAT, MADMAN?

IT WILL BE MINE!!
STOP HIM, FOOLS! THE MIND-BLOCK NO LONGER HOLDS HIM! STOP HIM BEFORE HE REACHES ME!

TOO LATE! TOO LATE! HE'S BROKEN THROUGH THE SCREEN!

I CAN NO LONGER REMAIN HERE! NO LONGER RISK MY BEING! FAREWELL, FOOLS!

SPLAAAM!

DESTROY HIM-- DESTROY HIM FOR YOUR MASTER-- DESTROY HIM FOR DO--

WHAT? THERE'S NO ONE HERE-- NO ONE BUT SOLDIERS!

THEN HARKER AND THE REST WERE ILLUSIONS -- BUT CREATED BY WHOM? WHOM?

STAND WHERE YOU ARE, VAMPIRE! WE STILL HAVE ORDERS TO SLAY YOU!

NO--DON'T BE AN IDIOT--THE MASTER'S FLED--HE'S LEFT US HERE TO DIE!

YOU DON'T WANT TO DIE, DO YOU?

COWARD! WE PLEDGED OURSELVES TO THE MASTER!

AND HE LEFT US HERE-- DO WE OWE ALLEGIANCE TO A MASTER SUCH AS THAT?

YOU ARE ALL FOOLS! ALL COWARDS!

YES, OUR MASTER FLED-- HIS LIFE IS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE!

BUT I AM STILL HIS FAITHFUL SERVANT!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

HE WANTED YOU THREE DEAD-- AS MUCH AS HE WANTED THE CHIMERA ITSELF!

BUT I GIVE YOU A NEW ALTERNATIVE, VAMPIRE-- THE LIFE OF THIS GIRL WHO MEANS SO MUCH TO YOU--

--FOR THE STATUE-- FOR THE POWER YOU HOLD IN YOUR HANDS!

DECIDE, VAMPIRE-- YOU HAVE TEN SECONDS!

INDEED, THERE IS INSANITY RAMPANT HERE! YOU TRULY EXPECT ME TO GIVE YOU THE ULTIMATE POWER FOR THE LIFE OF A MERE MORTAL?
EVEN ONE I DO CARE SOMEWHAT FOR?
NO, GIRL-- THREATS WILL NOT WORK WITH ME--

--ESPECIALLY AS LONG AS I HOLD THIS CHIMERA IN MY HANDS!
BUT NOW, WOMAN--YOU MUST BE PUNISHED--

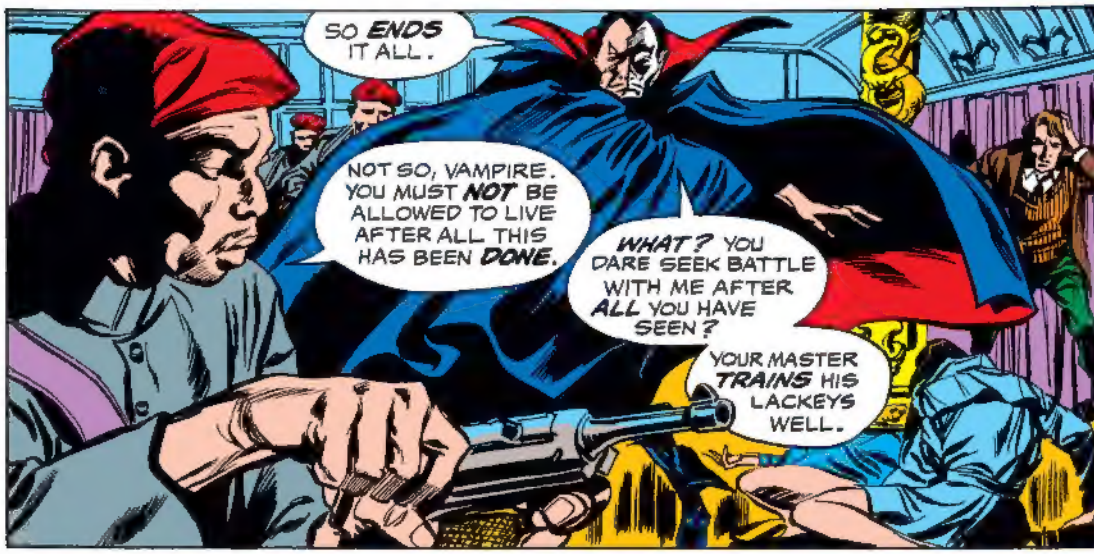
AND WHAT'S MORE DELIGHTFUL THAN TO GIVE YOU THE DEATH YOU SO READILY WOULD GIVE TO ANOTHER!
GAZE INTO MY EYES, FEMALE--

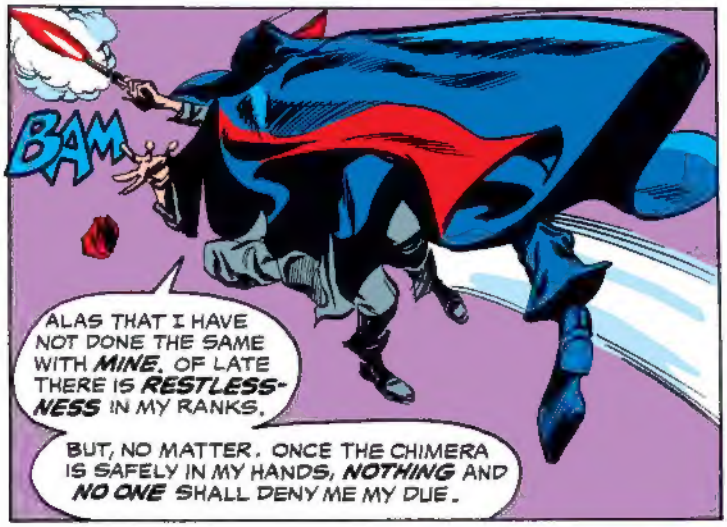
SEE YOUR OWN HELL-- WITNESS YOUR OWN PATH OF DAMNATION--

NOW, DO WHAT YOU KNOW YOU MUST--

NOW! DO IT NOW!

HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!

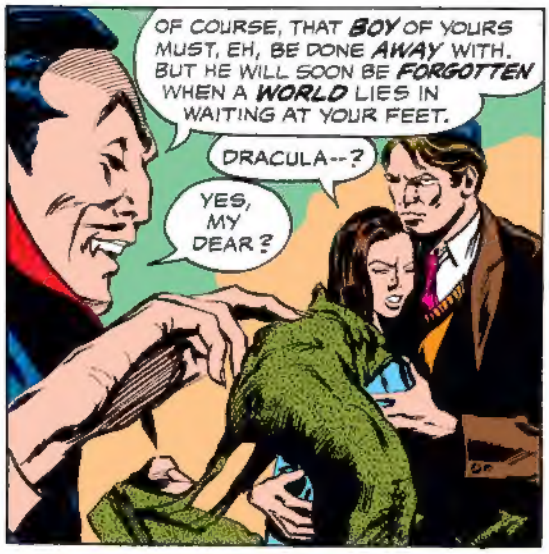

SO ENDS IT ALL.
NOT SO, VAMPIRE. YOU MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO LIVE AFTER ALL THIS HAS BEEN DONE.
WHAT? YOU DARE SEEK BATTLE WITH ME AFTER ALL YOU HAVE SEEN?
YOUR MASTER TRAINS HIS LACKEYS WELL.


BAM
ALAS THAT I HAVE NOT DONE THE SAME WITH MINE. OF LATE THERE IS RESTLESSNESS IN MY RANKS.
BUT, NO MATTER. ONCE THE CHIMERA IS SAFELY IN MY HANDS, NOTHING AND NO ONE SHALL DENY ME MY DUE.

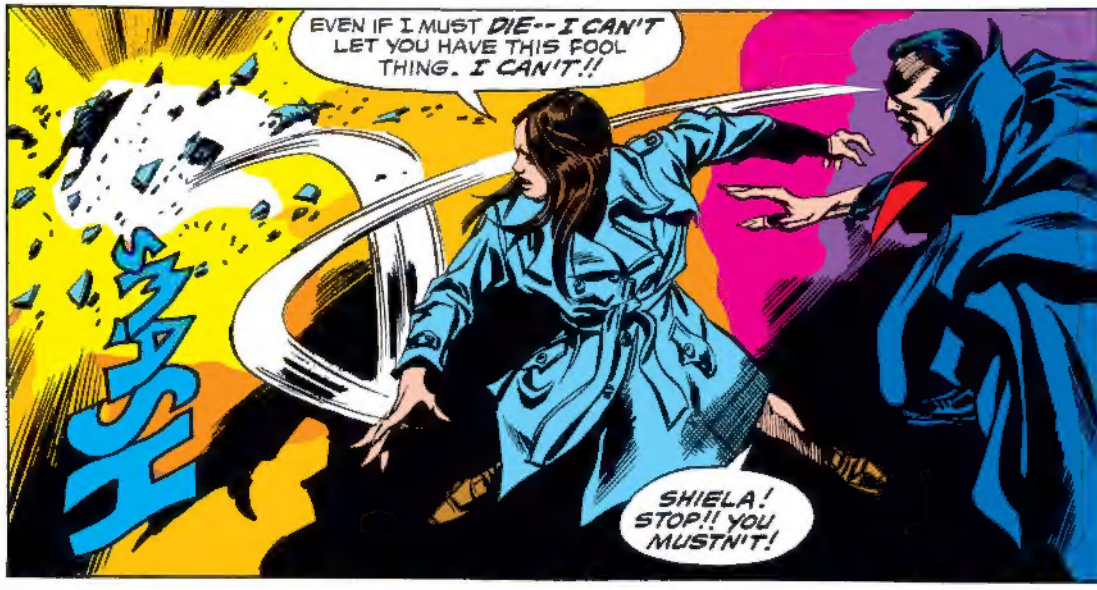
FAREWELL, FOOL--
--AND WHEN YOU AWAKEN NEXT, I URGE YOU TO HAVE SUCH MINDLESS LOYALTY TO YOUR NEW MASTER!

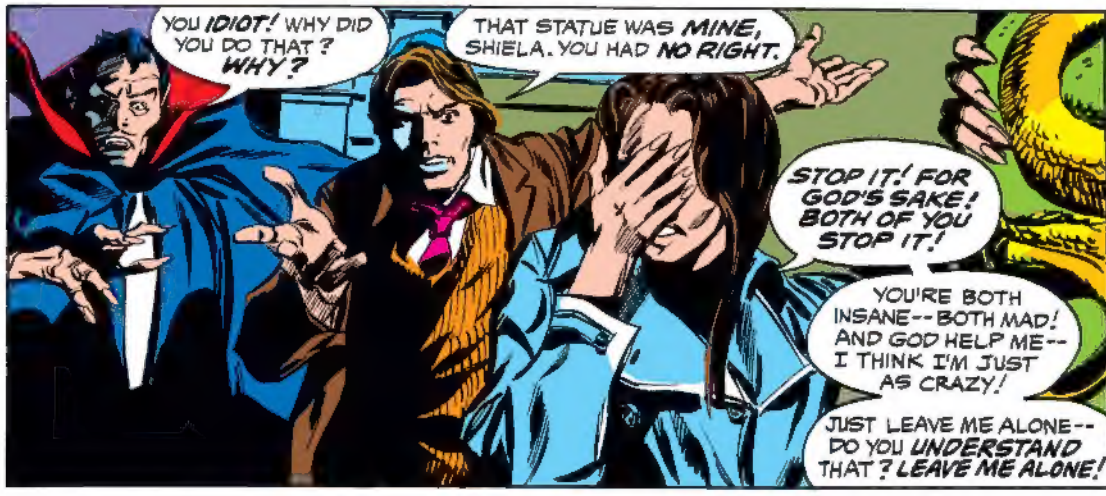
NOW THERE IS NONE TO DEFY ME. SAD--THE FIGHT WAS BEGINNING TO BECOME ENJOYABLE.
AH WELL, SUCH IS THE WAY THINGS MUST BE, I GUESS, WHEN YOU POSSESS THE POWER ABSOLUTE.

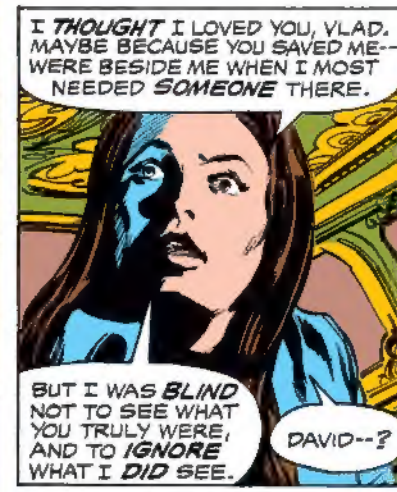
IT IS TIME TO LEAVE NOW, SHIELA. COME--TOGETHER WE SHALL PREPARE FOR MY INCOMING VICTORY.

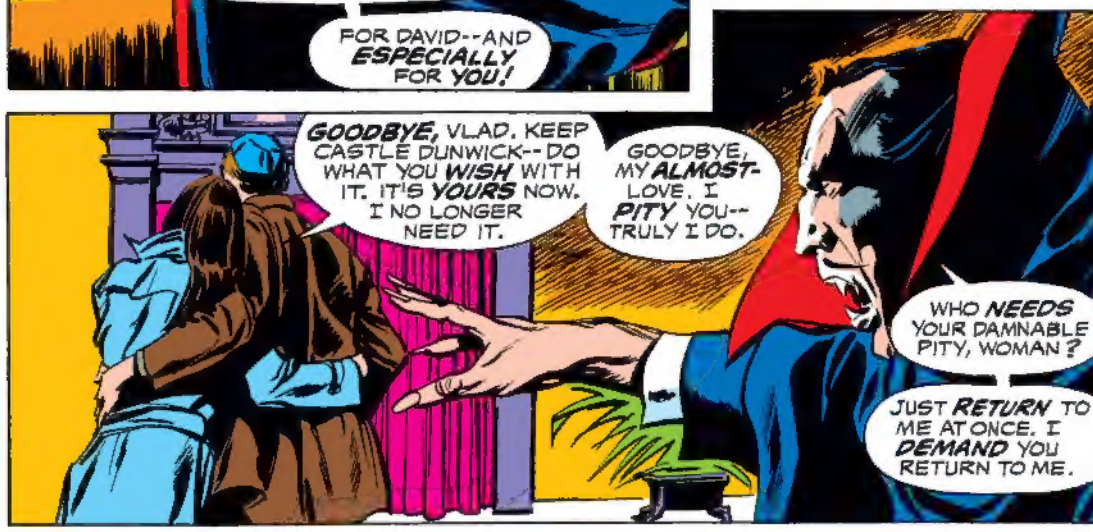

OF COURSE, THAT BOY OF YOURS MUST, EH, BE DONE AWAY WITH. BUT HE WILL SOON BE FORGOTTEN WHEN A WORLD LIES IN WAITING AT YOUR FEET.
DRACULA--?
YES, MY DEAR?

I HATE YOU! I HATE YOU!
WHAT?!?


EVEN IF I MUST DIE--I CAN'T LET YOU HAVE THIS FOOL THING. I CAN'T!!
SHIELA! STOP!! YOU MUSTN'T!


YOU IDIOT! WHY DID YOU DO THAT? WHY?
THAT STATUE WAS MINE, SHIELA. YOU HAD NO RIGHT.
STOP IT! FOR GOD'S SAKE! BOTH OF YOU STOP IT!
YOU'RE BOTH INSANE--BOTH MAD! AND GOD HELP ME--I THINK I'M JUST AS CRAZY!
JUST LEAVE ME ALONE--DO YOU UNDERSTAND THAT? LEAVE ME ALONE!





NEXT: "VENGEANCE IS MINE," SAYETH the VAMPIRE!